Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A method for providing driver-independent, printer-independent page manipulation options in a printing system through ~~creating~~ a page-independent spool file index, said method comprising:

    reading ~~creating~~ a spool data file for a document;

    creating a Page-Independent Spool File (PISF) index file that is distinct from said spool data file, but ~~from~~ based on data in said spool data file, wherein said PISF index file ~~reorganizes document-wide, persistent, page formatting data in said spool data file into~~ identifies portions of said spool data file required to print independentl~~y~~-formatted page-specific units corresponding to each page of said document; and

    manipulating said PISF index file, after creation of said PISF index file, to effect document page format manipulation options, thereby producing a manipulated PISF index file; and

    accessing said manipulated PISF index file to execute a print job.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a

     user interface for user manipulation of said PISF index file, after creation of said

     index file, to effect document page format manipulation options.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 1 wherein said manipulating

     comprises re-ordering of pages in said document.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 1 wherein said user manipulation is

     performed via a spooler user interface.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said PISF index file is

     created by a process that is independent of the process that created said spool data

     file.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said PISF index file is

     created by a modified print processor.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said PISF index file is

     stored independently of said spool data file.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said PISF index file is

     created by a print system component other than the component that creates said

     spool data file.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein said manipulation of said

PISF index file comprises changing collation options.

10. (currently amended) A method for performing document formatting options in a

printing system, said method comprising:

    manipulating a PISF index file to effect document formatting after

    creation of said PISF index file, wherein said PISF index file comprises

    ~~document wide, persistent, page formatting data from a spool data file that~~

    ~~has been reorganized into~~ independent~~ly-formatted page-specific~~ units

    corresponding to each page of a document, wherein said independently-

    formatted page-specific units are based on document-wide, persistent,

    page formatting data in a spool data file; and

    accessing said manipulated PISF index file to execute a print job.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said manipulating

comprises changing the order of a page in said document.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said manipulating

comprises changing collation options for said document.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said manipulating is

accomplished through a print assistant between a driver and a printer.

14. (currently amended) A method for obtaining page-independent print data in a

printing system, said method comprising:

reading a PISF index file that is separate from a spool data file, wherein

said PISF index file comprises independently-formatted, page-specific

units derived from document-wide, persistent, page formatting data in said

spool data file ~~document wide, persistent, page formatting data from a~~

~~spool data file that has been reorganized into independent units~~

~~corresponding to each page of a document~~; and

accessing data indexed in said independently-formatted units to form a

print job.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein said PISF index file is produced by a

print processor.

16. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein said PISF index file is produced by a

spooler.

17. (original)The method of claim 14 wherein said PISF index file is produced by a

print system component in a print system between a driver and a printer.

18. (currently amended) A printing system with driver-independent, printer-independent document formatting, said system comprising:

a reader for reading a spool data file for a document;

an indexer for converting document-wide, persistent, page formatting data in said spool data file into <u>a page-independent spool file (PISF) index file comprising</u> independent<u>ly-formatted</u>, page-<u>specific</u> ~~related~~ units~~, thereby creating a page-independent spool file (PISF) index file~~.

19. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising <u>computer-executable</u> instructions for creating a page-independent spool file (PISF) index file, said instructions comprising the acts of:

reading a spool data file for a document; and

converting document-wide, persistent, page formatting data <u>into a page-independent spool file (PISF) index file comprising</u> ~~in said spool data file into~~ independent<u>ly-formatted</u>, page-<u>specific</u> ~~related~~ units~~, thereby creating a (PISF) index file~~.

20. (canceled)